

March 2023: Term 1, Week 8



From the Principal

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

Everyone is enjoying the new learning hub which provides a place for everything from individual study and research, quiet chilling, talking and learning together, teaching class groups, performances, and hosting our community.

It is a calm, warm space with something for everyone. A place to hear and exchange ideas, to enjoy reading and thinking, and for senior students to show the way. We are also delighted to have opened the new year 13 common room space and are enjoying the ease of travel through the school with the new layout. Thank you to our school Board who have been resolute and creative in delivering this project.

It's time for students to take stock of their progress as we approach the end of term. Senior students are meeting with parents and caregivers and their mentors on March 29, and there is a report evening for parents and caregivers of year 9 and 10 students on April 4. We hope that you can come along to talk together about successes and next steps for our taura.

Thanks to everyone associated with the project. Building within an existing envelope is way more challenging than starting afresh, and we've really appreciated the ongoing problem solving, perseverance and commitment to excellence. The design and building bring to life what was in our minds eye three or four years ago.

Ngā manaakitanga



Greg Watson
Tumuaki | Principal

Learning Hub Opening



Kia ora koutou

I would like to share with you the words I used at the opening of the new Learning Hub

Ka rawe awesome, we as a team at MRGS did this. The first invoice was paid in 2019 and here we are in 2023 opening this amazing building.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees for the vision in providing a learning space which is modern and light and supports the learning needs of our taura. Thank you to the property team for steering the ship when it needed direction and for never taking their hands off the tiller, and to the kura community, in particular Greg Watson, Karyn Gaudin, Steven Reid, Danielle Pringle and those who work on their teams. We have all worked well as one, we have realised the dream.

When I say it took four years to bring to fruition, it sounds like it was simple but there were many days which felt like a year in themselves as we were challenged by the many issues which arose in the creation of the Learning Hub. Here is the success story. He matenga poto he oranga roa (short term sacrifice for longevity)

Thank you to the kura community for their tolerance with having this part of the school inaccessible for a period of time. Thank you to Rubix for project managing this project and the many consultants and builders who brought together this finished product.

We are all here working for our taura and I can't wait to see it full of all of their beautiful smiling faces enjoying learning in this space.

Me mahi tahi tatou mo te oranga o te katoa

We work together for the wellbeing of everyone

Ngā mihi mahana

Marjet Pot
Presiding Member
School Board



"...above all this is a space for students. It is in the very heart of our school, and represents the heart of what we are encouraged and supported to do every day when we enter the gates. To learn. It is a space for us to work and learn collaboratively in ways that have been significantly restricted in the last few years. It is a space for us to set goals, and then work to achieve them. It is somewhere students can strengthen and form new relationships with those around them, and is a space that students already feel proud to have as a part of our school.

I wish to thank all of those, on behalf of the students, who have worked tirelessly to provide such an incredible space for what will be generations of students at Mount Roskill Grammar. We are grateful.

Tom Watkinson
Head Prefect

Learning Hub Opening



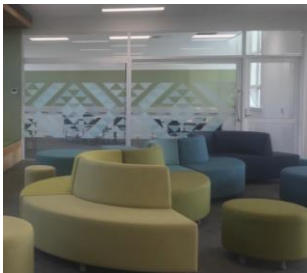
Three or four generations ago it would have been quite normal for Māori to live surrounded by visual expressions of their whakapapa, histories and pūrākau. The Hub project provided us with an opportunity to honour this visual storytelling within an important space in our kura.

Inside you'll see one of the two designs is based on the Poutama, a stepped pattern that can be used to represent the learning journey, intellectual achievement and a chiefly wisdom.

In the Hub the Poutama based design represents our learning journeys as taura and kaiako. Along the edge of the Poutama is a repeated kōwhiti motif that references tukutuku and represents the paths our ancestors took before us and that idea that they lay a path for us and support us on our own journeys.



The second design is based on the niho taniwha pattern which is often seen in tāniko and tukutuku. Niho taniwha or 'taniwha teeth' can be used to represent family houses or hapū within iwi, and the pūrākau, whakapapa and histories that are passed down through the generations. In the Hub the niho taniwha based design represents the different groups within our Kura that work together towards common goals. It also represents the many ways in which information and knowledge is communicated and passed down and the way that we can receive and contribute to knowledge before passing it on to others.



These important features of the Hub space create new opportunities for us to share and honour the practice of visual storytelling within te ao Māori which will be woven into our year 9 induction programme and other courses within our school curriculum so taura understand their meaning and significance

Danielle Pringle / Deputy Principal

The Learning Hub Director



I am half Greek, half kiwi with a lot of Scottish thrown in. My husband and I have three children, my oldest son is 16, my daughter is 13 and my youngest son is 11.

I have had many different jobs over the years (including working for a Princess but now is not the time to go into that!) but when I became a school librarian I realised I had found the perfect job for me. I love reading, I love talking about books and I love working with people to find a book they are going to love.

When I am not in the Learning Hub I am a book critic/reviewer on National Radio.

As you may know it has been a rocky start to the year for the Learning Hub, losing most of our books and all our new shelving in the January flooding, but I am very privileged to start my time at Mt Roskill Grammar School in the beautiful new space that is the Learning Hub and am looking forward to working with our teachers and students to establish and grow our new collection and getting the walls filled with shelves of amazing, exciting books.

Catherine Ross





Calendar

20 – 24 March	Year 13 Camp - Year 13s not at camp study from home
29 March	Mentoring 1 - Year 11, 12 & 13. Half day for Year 9 & 10
30 March	Sports Exchange - Mahurangi
1 April	70 th Reunion
4 April	Sports Exchange - Pukekohe
4 April	Junior Report Evening
6 April	End of Term 1
24 April	Teacher only day- No students onsite
25 April	ANZAC day- School Closed
26 April	Term 2 Starts

Jubilee

We are looking forward to seeing many of our alumni on Saturday April 1
Any queries please send them to alumni@mrgs.school.nz



Attendance

We know the best place for students to learn is here with us at school. Alongside the Ministry of Education expectation, we also aspire to students being with us 90% or more of the time. Please support your child to be here every day. Every minute of learning counts.

You will receive a fortnightly update of your child's attendance via email, please discuss this with your child so they are aware of their attendance levels regularly.

Start of the Day:

- **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday** classes start at 9am with a 8.55am bell to signal 5 minutes to the start of the lesson
- **Wednesday** classes start at 9.20am with a 9.15am bell to signal 5 minutes to the start of the lesson

Phone Use in Lessons

We are working hard to build and maintain the most effective learning environments for our students. It has been identified both at MRGS and internationally in schools that phones are creating a lot of distraction from engagement and learning, and therefore hindering progress.

We have reinforced with students in School Assemblies and classes our school policy that phones are not to be used in class unless directed by the teacher. Students will be asked to have their phones away in their bags, on silent during lessons. Please support us by discussing this at home with your child and reinforcing a focus on learning.

Mentoring 1

Our first round of senior mentoring will take place on **Wednesday 29 March**. On that day we will be open for instruction until 1:25pm from then on the junior students will head home. You will receive an email communication about this during this week. Our expectation is that all senior students will meet with their mentors in person here at school, and our hope is that you will join them. The discussions will focus on the progress that has been made towards their goals, academic progress, and planning for the future.

To make a booking with your child's mentor, simply Book online:

Go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

1. Enter the code **ku4xz**
2. Enter your details
3. Select your student's mentor from the list

If you require assistance to make a booking or change an existing booking, you can phone the school on 09 621 0050 with your student's name, ID and mentor's name ready.

Junior Report Night

Tuesday 4 April is Junior Report Night. This is an opportunity for whānau to come and meet the teachers of students in Years 9 and 10 to discuss the progress that they have made so far this year, and what is coming up for them in their learning over the next two terms.

If you would like to make a booking to see the teachers of your child, please follow the instructions below:

Go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

1. Enter the code **7nbd**
2. Enter your details
3. Select your student's teacher you would like to book in with

If you require assistance to make a booking or change an existing booking, you can phone the school on 09 621 0050 with your student's name, ID and mentor's name ready.

Chromebooks

MRGS is an established BYOD school, meaning that your child needs to have a device to support their learning in the classroom. The ideal device for learning is lightweight with a keyboard. MRGS' teachers use the Google Classroom platform for all their classes as a way of distributing information, assigning classwork and homework tasks, and giving feedback on assessments.

Through our ICT partners New Era, we give our community access to a purchasing portal called Acquire <https://newera-byod.acquire.co.nz/>. New Era seeks to provide our community with the most competitive pricing for any new device purchases, but if you are struggling to provide a device for learning and you have a community services card, we do have a limited number of Chromebooks available for loan for the 2023 academic year.

To access these devices, a \$50 deposit will need to be paid; you or your child will need to present a community services card at the time that you or they make the deposit.

Students Driving to School

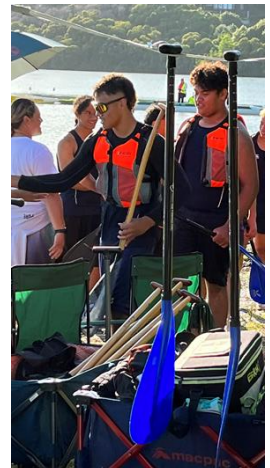
Students who are driving to school are reminded of the following expectations:

- There is no parking on campus grounds which includes the Intermediate and Primary schools
- Vehicles are not to be used during school hours (unless permission from a member of SLT)
- Students are not permitted to transport other students unless on a full NZ Drivers Licence
- Students are to drive safely around school, with particular consideration of the younger members of our campus
- Year 13's cannot drive their cars at lunch time

We will be sending students a google form to register to drive their cars to school. Please complete this as soon as possible

Waka Ama

We had some great days on the lake for our Waka Ama Senior Regional Regatta 2023 at Ōrākei Basin. A total of 22 students racing. Congratulations to the Girls getting 1st place in the Novice U19 W6 250m plate final and Boys with their 3rd place in the U19 W6 250m final



Sports Carnival

On Wednesday March 8th our students competed in our annual Sports Carnival. Year groups competed house by house in a range of events including egg and spoon races, catch-a-pass, carry and the tug-of-war. Highlights of the day included the wonderful atmosphere that our students brought to the day and the festive fancy dress that was worn. Sheppard House were the eventual winners, by a one point lead over Ngata 1783 to 1782!







Polyfest: Tongan Cultural Group

For the first time since 2018 our Tongan Cultural Group took the stage at Polyfest. Led by Mrs Puafolau and their tutor Penisio Kautai, the group demonstrated Mafana - pride - in their culture and their school. Over 30 of our students also helped to run the Tongan Stage for Polyfest.



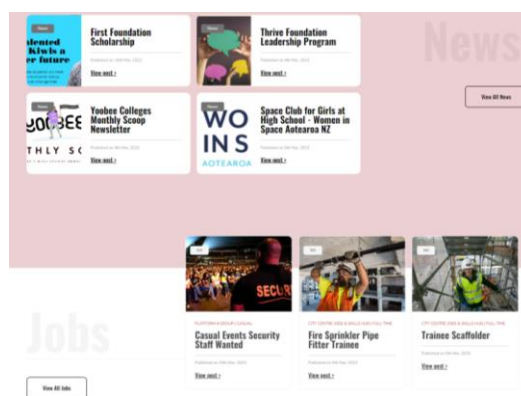
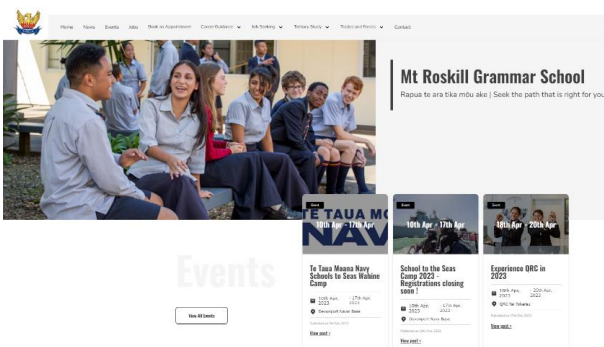
Careers Update

MRGS has a new careers website for students and their whānau. This is the one stop shop for everything career related at MRGS. A wealth of information on various career related topics such as tertiary study pathways, CV writing tips, subject selection advice, and scholarship information are included on the site.

This is updated regularly with new career opportunities for students such as liaison visits from universities, work experience opportunities, holiday courses, tertiary open days, CV writing workshops and part- and full-time job opportunities. Check out the events section for what is coming up.

Students can also make an appointment with the Careers Advisor by using the Book an Appointment tab on the website.

To access the website go to <https://mrgs.careerwise.school/>



Staff Vacancies

Samoan teacher, full-time, permanent to start Term 3 2023. We seek a passionate, enthusiastic and innovative person who will share in the school's drive for student success. The successful applicant will have curriculum expertise, and the capability to work collaboratively with a team of teachers, to achieve outstanding learning outcomes for our students in NCEA and Scholarship. We will consider applications that are EBTT as well as registered teachers. Please state specialist subjects.

Applicants should include a covering letter outlining relevant experience and a CV. Please send evidence of teacher registration, past 5 years of employment and the names of two confidential referees. Applications close on Monday 27 March 2023 and should be addressed to the Principal, Mount Roskill Grammar School, Frost Road, Mount Roskill or email: tului.fox@mrgs.school.nz

Sports

We had 10 swimmers participate in the Central Zone Swimming Competition held at Diocesan School for Girls on Thursday 2 March. Everyone competed very well and some fantastic results were achieved.

Boys 14-15 Year Olds			
Daniel Kregting 3rd 50m Butterfly 6th 50m Backstroke 11th 50m Freestyle	Nemanja Markovic 3rd 50 Breaststroke 4th 50m Freestyle 5th = 50m Butterfly	Ethan Stocks 3rd 50m Backstroke 8th 50m Butterfly 14th 50m Freestyle 16th 50 Breaststroke	Naia Tagiilima 20th 50m Butterfly 23rd 50 Breaststroke 24th 50m Freestyle
Girls 14-15 Year Olds			
Leah Crowie 12th 50 Breaststroke 20th 50m Freestyle	Emma Winn 1st 50m Butterfly 8th 50m Backstroke 22nd 50m Freestyle	Astrid Kyle 8th 50 Breaststroke 11th 50m Freestyle	Alex Winn 7th 50m Freestyle 9th 50m Backstroke
Girls 16 & Over		Boys 16 & Over	Boys Relay Team
Astrid Kyle 8th 50 Breaststroke 11th 50m Freestyle	Alex Winn 7th 50m Freestyle 9th 50m Backstroke	Jinitha Hewa 10th 50m Backstroke 11th 50m Butterfly 16th 50m Freestyle	Daniel Kregting, Nemanja Markovic, Ethan Stocks, Naia Tagiilima 2nd 100m Freestyle 2nd 200m Freestyle



Sports



MRGS Cricket Girls had their first win of the season against One Tree Hill College.

Mount Roskill Grammar School: 190/4

One Tree Hill: 199/2

Special shout out to Elise Bolland who knocked up a quick fire 50 not out!



Congratulations to Stella Boyd who attended the climbing nationals over the weekend in Christchurch where she represented Auckland Climbing.



Congratulations to Ankush Kulkarni on being selected in the Auckland Under 15 Hockey team. He was selected in the top 16 out of over 80 players with in Auckland.

All the best for future games Ankush

Winter Sport Coaches Needed!

Calling on all of our Roskill Community – we urgently need a number of coaches for a range of different sports teams this winter. If you are able to support with coaching any of the following Sports at Mount Roskill Grammar, please contact the Director of Sport – Cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz for more information. These are for Senior, Junior, Boys and Girls, competitive and social teams.

We need coaches for: Rugby Union (Boys and Girls), Football (Boys and Girls), Hockey (Junior Boys and Girls), Basketball, Netball, and Lacrosse (Girls).

Languages

On Wednesday 1st of March, the senior students of Japanese had the opportunity to go to the Japanese restaurant, 'Nishiki'. The students that came on this trip experienced authentic Japanese cuisine. We had an assortment of mini dishes consisting of meat or vegetables- accompanied by rice and miso soup. This assortment included steak, chicken Teriyaki, octopus ball, and dumplings, as well as tofu, tempura, and sushi. Some students had different menu options - vegetarian and pescatarian. Throughout the dinner, we had fun trying to guess the songs played via speakers, as well as the unique gadget menu on the tables. Last year we were unable to physically go to a restaurant due to the covid restrictions, so the shop delivered the food to school. We ate it in the classroom. However, the real trip to the restaurant was much more memorable. Many thanks to Ms. Kojima for making this trip happen and thanks to Mr McAlpine and Whaea Lee for driving school vans.

By Shion De Zoysa



Year 10 French "Crêpe" day

On the 27 and 28 of February 2023 the classes of year 10 French had their crêpe making days where they would be decorating and eating crêpes. A crêpe is a French pancake usually eaten during breakfast time. You can add all sorts of toppings to the crêpe such as Nutella, jam, honey, lemon juice, which would make it rather strong, sugar, bananas or cream. Looking back, I really enjoyed the fact that the crêpes were cold but were extremely delicious and had a burst of flavour with every bite. We were encouraged to mention this in our Writing Project. I would definitely like to thank Monsieur McAlpine and Madame Robertson for organising this event for us and I look forward to anything like this in the future.

Rishabh Morarji

Education Perfect

MRGS success in the 2023 Education Perfect Languages Championships

In Term 1, Mount Roskill Grammar School competed in the 2023 Education Perfect Global Languages Championships. This is part of the Education Perfect World Series.

There were around 3,000 schools worldwide who competed and MRGS came 4th in NZ and 27th in the World. This represented many hours learning languages and revising material in a fun way.

There were a large number of impressive results with:

- Over 45 MRGS pupils gaining awards
- More than 370,000 questions answered by MRGS Languages pupils

The 4 students who gained an **Elite Award & Badge** putting them in the top 8.2% of all competitors and deserve a special mention for their dedication to gaining outstanding results worldwide (10,000+ points) are: **Annie Ma, Banujah Balagiritharan, Elsa Jobish and Inshirah Diwan.**

The four students who gained an **Emerald Award** (5,000+ points) are: **Akain Wittachchi Koralage, Amy Yau, Siyi Zhong and Calvin Zhou.**

The 9 pupils who gained a **GOLD Award** (3,000+ points) are: **Bristi Bhandari, Anna Duesing, Fatima Kaji, Alexis Moore, Deepti Ravi, Maaiasepi Samuelu, Muznah Siddiqi, Sunny Zhang and Catherine Zhao.**

MRGS also gained:

- * SILVER Award (2,000+ points) = 4 students
- * BRONZE Award (1,000+ points) = 6 students
- * CREDIT Award (500+ points) = 18 students

Well done on all the AMAZING results –
LEARN, COMPETE, WIN



Annie Ma



Banujah Balagiritharan



Elsa Jobish



Inshirah Diwan

The next scheduled work as part of the Mt Roskill's Safer Communities is raising the pedestrian crossing on Mt Albert Road near the Three Kings Plaza

Proposed date of works:

- The main construction works commenced on **22 February 2023** and will be for approximately 5 weeks
- Day works will run from **7am to 7pm**
- Night works will from **8pm to 5am**

Please note that these dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances or changing weather conditions. The line marking, pavement, asphalt and signal works may be undertaken during the night.



Auckland Transport has been working alongside community representatives including those from local businesses, nearby schools, and the Puketāpapa Local Board to make improvements in your neighbourhood.

This project is helping us to achieve our goal to reduce death and serious injury on our roads and AT consulted on this work in 2021. Our safety improvements at the intersection of Frost Road and Mt Albert Road are now complete and the changes have made it safer for all road users.

AT will no longer be working on the intersection of Hayr Road, Dornwell Road and Mt Albert Road. AT will only be raising the zebra crossing along Mt Albert Road to make it safer for pedestrians to cross the road and we will also put in two community requested speed humps along Hayr Road.



Raise existing pedestrian crossing: Outside 511 Mt Albert Road



Speed Calming: Hayr Road



For more information visit
[AT.govt.nz/safermtroskill](https://at.govt.nz/safermtroskill)
email us on projects@at.govt.nz
or call us on **09 355 3553**